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12/07/2011 11:57 AM

To Judith Hykel, Karen Melvin, Michael Dunn, Jacqueline Morrison, Jessica Greathouse, Angela McFadden, Jennifer Lynn, Richard Killian, James VanOrden, Marcos Aquino, Bill Jones, Peter Gold, Humane Zia, Terri-A White, Thomas Damm, Terry Simpson

cc

bcc

Subject FYI - Formal Request for ATSDR Health Consultation - Dimock PA Drinking Water

----- Forwarded by Angela McFadden/R3/USEPA/US on 12/07/2011 11:56 AM -----

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Date: 12/07/2011 11:41 AM
Subject: Formal Request for ATSDR Health Consultation - Dimock PA Drinking Water

Lora and Bob-

Thank you for your ongoing work in the informal review of drinking water data associated with the Dimock PA private drinking water contamination matter. At this time, we would like to formally request that ATSDR conduct a Health Consultation on the individual contaminant risks as well as the cumulative risk of the various compounds found in the private wells in and around the Dimock, PA area.

Bob has been actively involved in informally reviewing the voluminous data from multiple sources in the area associated with the PA DEP's investigation of the gas production wells drilled by Cabot Oil. We believe that the private wells in and around the Dimock area have been negatively impacted by the Cabot natural gas drilling process as evidenced by the presence of methane, butane, propane, ethane, ethene, etc., related gas compounds and also the presence of high concentrations of secondary contaminants like aluminum, iron, manganese, etc.

We have recently received additional data identifying additional organic chemicals, not previously identified in data received on December 2, 2011, covering August and September 2011 samples. Please add this to the data already under review. These more recent samples also show organic contaminants present in samples which we do not have maximum contaminant levels established in drinking water, including Butyl benzyl phthalate, Triethylene Glycol and 2 Methoxyethanol among others. We are unsure at what levels these individual contaminants present health risks, or what cumulative effects these and the secondary contaminants might have on the health of persons drinking the water. Given that the residents are potentially in contact through dermal, inhalation and ingestion pathways, if you should identify any potential health threats please notify us as soon as possible.

This is an urgent matter to the Agency so completion of your review within the next two months is requested. You should use Karen Johnson of our Ground Water and Enforcement Branch in Water Protection Division as your main point of contact on the data analysis and should you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division
EPA Region III